<u>CLAIMS:</u>

I claim:

1. A method for providing feedback on an electronic writing created with a word processing software and wherein said writing being displayable using said software on a video display of a computer system, said method comprising the steps of:

developing a set of editorial markings that may be inserted into said writing,

selecting from said set of editorial markings a marking to be inserted into said writing,

inserting said marking into said electronic writing, and

saving information pertaining to said inserted marking in said computer system so as to establish a database that documents the use of said markings in said writing.

2. A method for providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

compiling summary statistics for said saved markings that communicate information pertaining to the use of said markings in said writing.

3. A method for providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in claim 2, further comprising the step of:

filtering said inserted markings so that only a specified portion of such markings remain in said writing when it is returned to its writer.

4. A method for providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

hyperlinking said inserted marking to a website that exists on a network of linked computers.

5. A method for providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in claim 2, further comprising the step of:

hyperlinking said inserted marking to a website that exists on a network of linked computers.

1　　　　6. A method for providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in

2　claim 3, further comprising the step of:

3　　　　hyperlinking said inserted marking to a website that exists on a network of

4　linked computers.

5　　　　7. A method for providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in

6　claim 1, wherein:

7　　　　said inserted marking communicates information, regarding a portion of said

8　writing in proximity to said marking's insertion point, chosen from the group

9　consisting of information on the writing's punctuation, capitalization, italicization,

10　grammar, word usage, content or form.

11　　　　8. A method for providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in

12　claim 2, wherein:

13　　　　said compiled summary statistics communicate information selected from the

14　group consisting of information pertaining to: (a) specified skills that said writer

15　would need to focus upon in order to improve said writer's writing skills, (b) for a

16　series of said writings by the same writer, said writer's progress towards

17　improvement in those areas identified by said inserted markings as needing

18　improvement, (c) for a collection of writings by a group of writers who are being

19　instructed as a group, said group's general areas denoted by said inserted markings as

20　needing improvement, and (d) for a series of writings by said group, said group's

21　progress towards improvement in those areas identified by said inserted markings as

22　needing improvement.

23　　　　9. A method for providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in

24　claim 4, wherein:

25　　　　said website having information chosen from the group consisting of detailed

26　explanations of said markings and exercises that one can undertake in order to

27　strengthen those writing skills which are denoted by said inserted markings as

28　representing areas in which said writer needs improvement.

29　　　　10. A method for providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in

30　claim 1, wherein:

said inserted marking having an associated editorial comment that is insertable in said writing.

11. A computer program product in a computable readable memory for providing feedback on an electronic writing created with a word processing software and wherein said writing being displayable using said software on a video display of a computer system, said computer program product comprising:

a set of editorial markings that may be inserted into said writing,

means for displaying said set of markings on said video display,

means for selecting from said set of editorial markings a marking to be inserted into said writing,

means for inserting said marking into said electronic writing, and

means for saving information pertaining to said inserted marking in said computer system so as to establish a database that documents the use of said markings in said writing.

12. A computer program product for providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in claim 11, further comprising:

means for compiling summary statistics for said saved markings that communicate information pertaining to the use of said markings in said writing.

13. A computer program product for providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in claim 12, further comprising:

means for filtering said inserted markings so that only a specified portion of such markings remain in said writing when it is returned to its writer.

14. A computer program product for providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in claim 11, further comprising:

means for hyperlinking said inserted marking to a website that exists on a network of linked computers.

15. A computer program product for providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in claim 12, further comprising:

means for hyperlinking said inserted marking to a website that exists on a network of linked computers.

1     16. A computer program product for providing feedback on an electronic

2     writing as recited in claim 13, further comprising:

3          means for hyperlinking said inserted marking to a website that exists on a

4     network of linked computers.

5     17. A computer program product for providing feedback on an electronic

6     writing as recited in claim 11, wherein:

7          said inserted marking communicates information, regarding a portion of said

8     writing in proximity to said marking's insertion point, chosen from the group

9     consisting of information on the writing's punctuation, capitalization, italicization,

10     grammar, word usage, content or form.

11     18. A computer program product for providing feedback on an electronic

12     writing as recited in claim 12, wherein:

13          said compiled summary statistics communicate information selected from the

14     group consisting of information pertaining to: (a) specified skills that said writer

15     would need to focus upon in order to improve said writer's writing skills, (b) for a

16     series of said writings by the same writer, said writer's progress towards

17     improvement in those areas identified by said inserted markings as needing

18     improvement, (c) for a collection of writings by a group of writers who are being

19     instructed as a group, said group's general areas denoted by said inserted markings as

20     needing improvement, and (d) for a series of writings by said group, said group's

21     progress towards improvement in those areas identified by said inserted markings as

22     needing improvement.

23     19. A computer program product for providing feedback on an electronic

24     writing as recited in claim 14, wherein:

25          said website having information chosen from the group consisting of detailed

26     explanations of said markings and exercises that one can undertake in order to

27     strengthen those writing skills which are denoted by said inserted markings as

28     representing areas in which said writer needs improvement.

29     20. A computer program product for providing feedback on an electronic

30     writing as recited in claim 11, wherein:

said inserted marking having an associated editorial comment that is insertable in said writing.

21. A system including processor, memory, video display and input device for providing feedback on an electronic writing created with a word processing software and wherein said writing being displayable using said software on said a video display, comprising:

a set of editorial markings that may be inserted into said writing,

means for displaying said set of markings on said video display,

means for selecting from said set of editorial markings a marking to be inserted into said writing,

means for inserting said marking into said electronic writing, and

means for saving information pertaining to said inserted marking in said computer system so as to establish a database that documents the use of said markings in said writing.

22. A system providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in claim 21, further comprising:

means for compiling summary statistics for said saved markings that communicate information pertaining to the use of said markings in said writing.

23. A system for providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in claim 22, further comprising:

means for filtering said inserted markings so that only a specified portion of such markings remain in said writing when it is returned to its writer.

24. A system for providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in claim 21, further comprising:

means for hyperlinking said inserted marking to a website that exists on a network of linked computers.

25. A system for providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in claim 22, further comprising:

means for hyperlinking said inserted marking to a website that exists on a network of linked computers.

26. A system for providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

means for hyperlinking said inserted marking to a website that exists on a network of linked computers.

27. A system for providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in claim 21, wherein:

said inserted marking communicates information, regarding a portion of said writing in proximity to said marking's insertion point, chosen from the group consisting of information on the writing's punctuation, capitalization, italicization, grammar, word usage, content or form.

28. A system for providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in claim 22, wherein:

said compiled summary statistics communicate information selected from the group consisting of information pertaining to: (a) specified skills that said writer would need to focus upon in order to improve said writer's writing skills, (b) for a series of said writings by the same writer, said writer's progress towards improvement in those areas identified by said inserted markings as needing improvement, (c) for a collection of writings by a group of writers who are being instructed as a group, said group's general areas denoted by said inserted markings as needing improvement, and (d) for a series of writings by said group, said group's progress towards improvement in those areas identified by said inserted markings as needing improvement.

29. A system for providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in claim 24, wherein:

said website having information chosen from the group consisting of detailed explanations of said markings and exercises that one can undertake in order to strengthen those writing skills which are denoted by said inserted markings as representing areas in which said writer needs improvement.

30. A system for providing feedback on an electronic writing as recited in claim 21, wherein:

1    said inserted marking having an associated editorial comment that is insertable

2  in said writing.

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